

**from *Travels With Charley* by John Steinbeck**  
**Selection Test B**

**Critical Reading** *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- \_\_\_ 1. In *Travels With Charley*, what does Steinbeck mean by saying that he did not know his own country?
  - A. He did not know the history of America.
  - B. He did not understand American art.
  - C. He had not visited areas for a while.
  - D. He had never been beyond big cities.
  
- \_\_\_ 2. In *Travels With Charley*, what did Steinbeck hope to achieve by living in his truck?
  - A. He could travel without giving his name.
  - B. He could avoid paying for hotel rooms.
  - C. He could travel light.
  - D. He could take his dog with him.
  
- \_\_\_ 3. In *Travels With Charley*, what does Steinbeck mean by saying he “. . . was working from memory, and the memory is at best a faulty, warpy reservoir”?
  - A. His had no memories left.
  - B. His memories revolved around Chicago.
  - C. He did not entirely trust his memories.
  - D. Memories, like reservoirs, depend on rain.
  
- \_\_\_ 4. What view of New York is shared by most people whom Steinbeck meets on the road?
  - A. They do not want to live there.
  - B. Most hope to visit it.
  - C. It is a very exciting place.
  - D. It is more crowded than the West.
  
- \_\_\_ 5. Does Steinbeck achieve his purpose: getting to know America again and writing about it?
  - A. yes, because he talks to strangers
  - B. no, because he talks only with Charley
  - C. no, because he talks only with Charley
  - D. no, because he cancels the trip
  
- \_\_\_ 6. From his actions in *Travels With Charley*, you can conclude that Steinbeck
  - A. has no sense of humor about himself.
  - B. does not easily make conversation.
  - C. tends to be ruled by his emotions.
  - D. is fearful of new experiences.
  
- \_\_\_ 7. Steinbeck’s description of the Bad Lands differs from one in a travel guide because it
  - A. does not describe the landscape.
  - B. makes observations about human nature.
  - C. is very lengthy and detailed.
  - D. concentrates on the climate.

- \_\_\_ 8. Steinbeck makes as many observations about humans as he does about nature because
- A. the natural setting is not interesting.
  - B. he does not like travel guides.
  - C. he feels close to all the people he meets.
  - D. one of his main interests is human nature.
- \_\_\_ 9. Which sequence best describes Steinbeck's changing emotions about the Bad Lands?
- A. uneasiness, fear, delight
  - B. boredom, amusement, contentment
  - C. anxiety, resentment, exhilaration
  - D. anger, surprise, happiness
- \_\_\_ 10. What does the next sentence from *Travels With Charley* say about Steinbeck's writing style?
- Against the descending sun the battlements were dark and clean-lined, while to the east, where the uninhabited light poured slantwise, the strange landscape shouted with color.
- A. He uses vague words.
  - B. He likes long, descriptive sentences.
  - C. He avoids figures of speech.
  - D. His sentences are short and choppy.
- \_\_\_ 11. What reaction does Steinbeck have to his conversation with the old woman in the Bad Lands?
- A. He is comforted by her friendly manner.
  - B. He is annoyed by her constant prattle.
  - C. He realizes that he misses his friends.
  - D. He realizes that he is afraid of the area.
- \_\_\_ 12. At the end of his day in the Bad Lands, Steinbeck builds a fire in order to enjoy its smell and sound. What might be his purpose in telling readers this anecdote?
- A. to show how much he enjoys fires
  - B. to demonstrate his camping abilities
  - C. to show his comfort with his surroundings
  - D. to ward off his fears of the barren land
- \_\_\_ 13. What does the next passage say about Steinbeck's style in *Travels With Charley*?
- Someone must have told me about the Missouri River at Bismarck, North Dakota, or I must have read about it. In either case, I hadn't paid attention. I came on it in amazement. Here is where the map should fold.
- A. He leans toward short sentences.
  - B. He leans toward long sentences.
  - C. He mixes long and short sentences.
  - D. He hides his emotions.

- \_\_\_ 14. Which of the following sentences illustrates Steinbeck's reflective style?
- A. "I was set for some scratch-hen eggs."
  - B. "I felt I wouldn't like to have the night catch me there."
  - C. "I stopped where people stopped or gathered."
  - D. "Before I slept I spread a map on my bed, a Charley-tromped map."
- \_\_\_ 15. Why does Steinbeck carefully describe the man of few words and the chatty woman?
- A. The author uses a lot of description regardless of the topic.
  - B. The contrast helps readers see that the Bad Lands can affect people differently.
  - C. He remembers meeting them both on past travels.
  - D. He is about to turn back and wants to record his final experiences with care.

### Vocabulary and Grammar

- \_\_\_ 16. In which sentence is *rigorous* used correctly?
- A. The story was both exciting and rigorous.
  - B. The weather was rigorous, so we walked.
  - C. The hike was rigorous, but rewarding.
  - D. I was too rigorous to eat dessert.
- \_\_\_ 17. Which word or term is an acceptable reflexive pronoun?
- A. themselves
  - B. him or her
  - C. everyone's
  - D. hisself
- \_\_\_ 18. Which sentence contains a reflexive pronoun used *incorrectly*?
- A. Sara baked a cake for herself.
  - B. Sara baked a cake for her.
  - C. Ray told Mark he would be late.
  - D. The gift means a lot to myself.
- \_\_\_ 19. Something that is *inexplicable* is
- A. understandable.
  - B. inconclusive.
  - C. incomprehensible.
  - D. undebatable.
- \_\_\_ 20. Which word is closest in meaning to *impaired*?
- A. improved
  - B. enhanced
  - C. weakened
  - D. decreased

### Essay

21. Steinbeck equipped himself, both physically and emotionally, for the journey that led to *Travels With Charley*. Write an essay in which you tell whether he was adequately prepared, inadequately prepared, or overprepared. Give specific examples.